

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05696 070645Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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O 070605Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2212

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5696

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MAR, TH

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REDEPLOYMENT

REF: A) STATE 070242; B) BANGKOK 5131; C) JCS 7354/061912Z

APR 74; D) BANGKOK 5173

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SUCCESS IN DELAYING EXECUTION OF ROTATION OF ONE TDY A-7 SQUADRON WHICH WOULD, IN EFFECT, BEGIN TACAIR WITHDRAWAL AHEAD OF SCHEDULE DISCUSSED WITH RTG. WE SPECIFIED IN JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT ON FORCE REDUCTIONS (REFTEL B) THAT DETAILS OF WITHDRAWALS WILL BE WORKED OUT IN DISCUSSION BETWEEN RTG AND EMBASSY.

2. RE PARA 2 OF REFTEL A, IT IS HARD TO CONCEIVE WHAT EFFECTIVE STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT THAIS DO NOT LEARN OF PROPOSED DRAWDOWNS. WE SHOULD RATHER ASSUME THAT THAIS WILL PROMPTLY GET WIND OF DRAWDOWNS AND FAIL TO SEE JUSTIFICATION FOR RISKING UNFAVORABLE REACTION BY OUR FAILURE TO UPHOLD OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSULT WITH THEM IN ADVANCE.

3. DURING MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE SUPREME COMMAND CONCERNING US FORCE REDUCTIONS THEY MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR FORCE CHANGES MUST APPEAR TO COME FROM THE RTG. THE WITHDRAWAL OF ONE SQUADRON A MONTH AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULE DATE COULD ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05696 070645Z

IN THE RTG ABOUT OUR ADHERENCE TO THE ENTIRE DRAWDOWN PLAN.

KINTNER

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